



2020 AG REQUEST LEGISLATION

DEPENDENCY CASELOAD FORECAST

What needs to change?

Every two years a caseload forecast sets the budget maintenance level across state government, but dependency cases are not included in the caseload forecast. As a result, funding has not kept up and caseloads for AAGs handling dependency and termination cases have steadily increased. This increase is unsustainable and negatively affects the lives of the children involved in these cases.

Why is this change necessary?

Lower, more sustainable, caseload levels means more time to prepare each case and apply the increasingly complex laws in this area to each family's unique circumstances. Adequate staffing will also lead to finding safe and permanent homes more quickly for these abused and neglected children.

KEY
STAT

93 CASES

There are 101 AAGs each handling an average dependency caseload of 93 cases involving nearly 150 kids. This is more than 50% above the maximum caseload recommended by the ABA for this type of work. Caseloads have increased over the past 6 years but funding has not kept up. (see back page for more information)

What is the solution? - [SB 5942](#) / [HB 2083](#)

This bill adds dependency and termination caseloads to the bi-annual budget caseload forecast. This creates a presumption that the budget for legal services for agency counsel and parents in these cases should be tied according to that forecast. This budget increase will help children in dependency and termination cases find safe and permanent homes more quickly.

Key Support:

- Coordinated Care
- Department of Children, Youth, and Families
- Office of Public Defense
- Partners for Our Children

Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Das: D
Rep. Davis: D



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101

AAGs are managing
9,300+
dependency,
guardianship and
termination cases

Recommended Caseload v. Actual Caseload

(ABA recommendations based on requirements to meet a child welfare agency's legal need)

